



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/25855
28 May 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 26 MAY 1993 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you, and through you to the members of the Security Council, the report prepared by me pursuant to paragraph 3 of Security Council resolution 817 (1993) on the exercise of good offices by the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee in respect of the difference which has arisen in connection with the request for admission to membership in the United Nations of the State admitted as the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

In doing so, I would like to draw your attention to the view expressed to me by Mr. Vance and Lord Owen, which is mentioned in part III of the report and which I share, that an early endorsement of their proposals by the Security Council would help the parties to reach agreement.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

Annex I

14 May 1993

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

EXERCISE OF GOOD OFFICES BY THE CO-CHAIRMEN OF THE
STEERING COMMITTEE IN RESPECT OF THE DIFFERENCE
WHICH HAS ARISEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE REQUEST FOR
ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS OF THE
STATE ADMITTED AS THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC
OF MACEDONIA

Report of the Secretary-General submitted
pursuant to resolution 817 (1993)

INTRODUCTION

1. On 7 April 1993, the Security Council adopted resolution 817 (1993) (see annex II below) on the application for admission to the United Nations of the State later admitted as the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (General Assembly resolution 47/225 of 8 April 1993). In that resolution the Council:

[Noted] ... that a difference has arisen over the name of the State, which needs to be resolved in the interest of the maintenance of peaceful and good-neighbourly relations in the region,

and

[Welcomed] ... the readiness of the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, at the request of the Secretary-General, to use their good offices to settle the above-mentioned difference, and to promote confidence-building measures among the parties.

2. On 12 April the Co-Chairmen wrote to the Secretary-General stating their readiness to help settle the difference and to promote confidence-building measures among the parties. They stated that they would do so expeditiously and report to the Secretary-General within two months at the latest. Though it proved not to be possible for this work to be completed by 30 April, the last day on which Mr. Vance held the office of Co-Chairman of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, he agreed, at the request of the two parties and of the Secretary-General, to continue his functions under the Security Council resolution.

I. DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PARTIES

3. The discussions with the parties described below took place against the background of earlier work done within the framework of the European Community conference on the former Yugoslavia, and in particular:

/...

- Opinion No. 6 on the recognition of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia by the European Community and its member States rendered by the Arbitration Commission presided over by Mr. R. Badinter (annex III);
- Draft Treaty for the Confirmation of the Existing Frontier, prepared by Sir Robin O'Neill, Envoy of the President of the European Community (annex IV).

4. During the course of the discussions, the two delegations raised issues that they wished the Co-Chairmen to consider. The two sides also provided written submissions in support of their positions or proposing particular texts.

5. On 12 and 13 April, the Co-Chairmen held several meetings each with a Greek delegation led by Foreign Minister Papaconstantinou, and with a delegation from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia led by Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Foreign Minister Crvenkovski.

6. Following this initial round of discussions, the Co-Chairmen arranged for technical discussions to be held from 14 to 26 April between their legal expert and the legal experts of the two delegations. Based on these technical discussions, a working paper was prepared and submitted to the two delegations on 21 April for their comments.

7. Additionally, Lord Owen, accompanied by Mr. Vance's Special Adviser, held talks with the parties in their capitals. On 22 and 23 April, he met with President Gligorov in Skopje and Prime Minister Mitsotakis and Special Envoy Papoulias in Athens.

8. Discussions on the working paper were held with the two delegations between 27 and 29 April at United Nations Headquarters in New York. On 29 April, the Co-Chairmen submitted to the two sides a draft treaty Confirming the Existing Frontier and Establishing Measures for Confidence Building, Friendship and Neighbourly Cooperation.

9. During their visit to Athens in connection with the peace talks relating to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Vance and Lord Owen also met on 1 May with Prime Minister Mitsotakis to discuss the draft Treaty.

10. Between 5 and 14 May Mr. Vance and Lord Owen met a number of times with delegations led on the one hand by Foreign Minister Papaconstantinou of Greece and by either President Gligorov or by Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Foreign Minister Crvenkovski of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. At the conclusion of these discussions, Mr. Vance and Lord Owen gave the two delegations the draft of a proposed Treaty Confirming the Existing Frontier and Establishing Measures for Confidence Building, Friendship and Neighbourly Cooperation, the text of which appears in annex V.

II. THE PROPOSALS TO THE PARTIES

11. The draft Treaty that Mr. Vance and Lord Owen presented to the parties on 14 May was prepared on the basis of the extensive consultations outlined above

and represents, in their judgement and also in that of the Secretary-General, an appropriate and fair balancing of the various claims and aspirations, on many points directly conflicting, of the two parties. Part A includes a number of special provisions designed to promote friendly relations and to constitute confidence-building measures, while parts B to E set out normal provisions for friendship and neighbourly cooperation appropriate to the interaction of two adjoining States that are for the first time establishing relations with each other.

12. With respect to the name to be used by the State that was admitted to the United Nations with the provisional name of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which name was of particular concern to the Security Council in adopting its resolution 817 (1993), the position of the two parties was far apart:

(a) The Greek delegation stated its position that the other party should not use a name [, in its international relations,]* that included the word "Macedonia"; it indicated, however, that if that term were to be included in a name to be used for both domestic and international purposes, then the name "Slavomacedonia" could be envisaged.

(b) The delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia prefers that the name used for all purposes be that set out in the Constitution: "The Republic of Macedonia"; it was, however, prepared to discuss the modalities of the use of a name for international purposes only.

13. Mr. Vance and Lord Owen consider that the name to be used should be the same for all official purposes, both domestic and international. Taking into account the continuing disagreement of the parties as to what that name should be, and the number of alternatives that were proposed at one time or another by one of the parties or by the Co-Chairmen, all of which proposals were rejected by one or both parties, Mr. Vance and Lord Owen have proposed the following name: "The Republic of Nova Makedonija", to be used for all official purposes, domestic and international.

III. OUTLOOK

14. The draft Treaty, the text of which appears in annex V to the present report, and the name proposed by Mr. Vance and Lord Owen are, as stated above, before the parties. The reaction of the parties to the good offices thus exercised has not yet been communicated to Mr. Vance and Lord Owen. I share the view expressed to me by Mr. Vance and Lord Owen that an early endorsement of their proposals by the Security Council would help the parties to reach agreement.

* Mr. Vance and Lord Owen understood that the Greek position included the bracketed phrase. However, on checking this point with the Greek delegation after Lord Owen had already left for Moscow, the delegation indicated that the bracketed phrase should be excluded.

If their reaction is positive, Mr. Vance and Lord Owen would arrange for the draft Treaty to be signed at an early date. The new name could be used as of the same date. Should, however, the parties be unable to reach agreement on the basis of these proposals, then it would be for the Security Council to decide on further steps.

Annex II

RESOLUTION 817 (1993)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 3196th meeting,
on 7 April 1993

The Security Council,

Having examined the application for admission to the United Nations in document S/25147,

Noting that the applicant fulfils the criteria for membership in the United Nations laid down in Article 4 of the Charter,

Noting, however, that a difference has arisen over the name of the State, which needs to be resolved in the interest of the maintenance of peaceful and good-neighbourly relations in the region,

Welcoming the readiness of the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, at the request of the Secretary-General, to use their good offices to settle the above-mentioned difference, and to promote confidence-building measures among the parties,

Taking note of the contents of the letters contained in documents S/25541, S/25542 and S/25543 received from the parties,

1. Urges the parties to continue to cooperate with the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia in order to arrive at a speedy settlement of their difference;
2. Recommends to the General Assembly that the State whose application is contained in document S/25147 be admitted to membership in the United Nations, this State being provisionally referred to for all purposes within the United Nations as "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" pending settlement of the difference that has arisen over the name of the State;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the outcome of the initiative taken by the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia.

Annex III

[Original: English and French]

CONFERENCE ON YUGOSLAVIA

ARBITRATION COMMISSION

OPINION No. 6

ON THE RECOGNITION OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER STATES

In a letter dated 20 December 1991 to the President of the Council of the European Communities, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia asked the member States of the Community to recognize the Republic.

The Arbitration Commission proceeded to consider this application in accordance with the Declaration on Yugoslavia and the Guidelines on the Recognition of New States in Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union adopted by the Council on 16 December 1991 and the rules of procedure adopted by the Arbitration Commission on 22 December.

For the purposes of its deliberations the Commission took note of the following materials supplied by the Socialist Republic of Macedonia:

- Declaration of 19 December 1991 by the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, appended to the above-mentioned letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs;
- Letter of 20 December 1991 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia;
- Answers to the Commission's questionnaire sent to the Republics concerned on 24 December 1991;
- Report on the results of the referendum held on 8 September 1991;
- Declaration of 17 September 1991 by the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia;
- Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia of 17 November 1991 and amendments passed on 6 January 1992;
- Letter of 11 January 1992 sent by telecopier by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Chairman of the Arbitration Commission in response to the Commission's request of 10 January 1992 for additional information.

Having regard to the information before it, and having heard the Rapporteur, the Arbitration Commission delivers the following opinion:

1. In his answers to the Commission's questionnaire, the Minister for Foreign Affairs made the following statements on behalf of the Republic of Macedonia:

- (a) In response to the question what measures Macedonia had already taken, or intended to take, to give effect to the principles of the United Nations Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris:

"The Constitutional Act to give effect to the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia states that the Republic of Macedonia bases its international position and its relations with other States and international organizations on the generally accepted principles of international law (article 3).

"The Constitutional Act to give effect to the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia defines that the Republic of Macedonia, as an equal legal successor of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia together with the other republics, takes over the rights and obligations arising from the creation of the SFRY (article 4)."

- (b) In response to the question what measures Macedonia had already taken, or intended to take, to guarantee the rights of the ethnic and national groups and minorities on its territory:

"The Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia provides for the establishment of a Council for Inter-Ethnic Relations, which shall consider issues of inter-ethnic relations in the Republic. The Council, composed of all the nationalities on a parity basis, apart from the President of the Assembly, consists of two members from the ranks of the Macedonians, the Albanians, the Turks, the Vlachs and the Roms, as well as two members from the ranks of other nationalities in Macedonia. The Assembly is obliged to take into consideration the appraisals and proposals of the Council and to pass decisions regarding them (article 78)."

- (c) In response to the question whether Macedonia would undertake not to alter its frontiers by means of force:

"Yes, the Republic of Macedonia respects the inviolability of the territorial borders which could be changed only in a peaceful manner and by mutual consent.

"The Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, in its declaration of 17 September 1991, states that the Republic of Macedonia, strictly respecting the principle of inviolability of frontiers, as a guarantee for peace and security in the region and wider, confirms its policy of neither expressing nor having territorial claims against any neighbouring country (article 4)."

- (d) In response to the question whether Macedonia was willing to abide by all the undertakings given on disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons:

"Yes, the Republic of Macedonia undertakes all relevant obligations referring to disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, as well as security and territorial stability."

- (e) In response to the question whether Macedonia was prepared to settle by agreement all questions relating to State succession in Yugoslavia and regional disputes, or by recourse to arbitration if necessary:

"Yes, the Republic of Macedonia accepts this obligation and strives for the resolution of all issues relating to the succession of States and to regional disputes, and in case this cannot be reached, by arbitration."

- (f) In response to the question what measures Macedonia had already taken, or intended to take, to honour this undertaking:

"The Constitutional act for implementation of the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia regulates the question of succession and states that the Republic of Macedonia as an equal successor with the other republics of the SFRY will assume the rights and obligations of the SFRY under the agreement with the other republics for the legal succession of the SFRY and mutual relations (article 4)."

- (g) In response to the question whether, and in what form, Macedonia had accepted the draft Convention of 4 November 1991 prepared by the Conference on Yugoslavia:

"The Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, on a proposal by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, passed a Declaration on 19 December 1991 accepting the draft Convention prepared by the Conference on Yugoslavia (article 3)."

- (h) In response to the question whether acceptance applied more specifically to chapter II of the draft Convention:

"Yes, the Republic of Macedonia accepts the provisions of chapter II of the draft Convention concerning human rights and the rights of national or ethnic groups."

2. Following a request made by the Arbitration Commission on 10 January 1992, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia stated in a letter of 11 January that the Republic would refrain from any hostile propaganda against a neighbouring country which was a member State of the European Community.
3. The Arbitration Commission also notes that on 17 November 1991 the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia adopted a Constitution embodying the democratic structures and the guarantees for human rights which are in operation in Europe.

For the protection of minorities in particular the Constitution contains a number of special provisions, whose main features at least should be mentioned:

(a) The main provision is to be found in article 48 (1), which states that members of the several nationalities have the right to the free expression, cultivation and development of their national identity; the same applies to national "attributes".

(b) In article 48 (2) the Republic guarantees that the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of the several nationalities will be protected.

(c) Article 48 (3) gives members of the several nationalities the right to set up cultural and artistic institutions and educational and other associations that will enable them to express, cultivate and develop their national identity.

(d) Under article 48 (4) they also have the right to be educated in their own language at both primary and secondary levels.

These provisions are to be given effect by statute. In schools where instruction is to be given in the language of one of the other nationalities, the Macedonian language must also be taught.

(e) In this connection article 45 is important since it provides that any citizen may set up a private school at any educational level except primary. Article 19 (4) provides that religious communities are also entitled to establish schools. In both these cases, however, the precise extent of the rights in question has still to be determined by legislation.

(f) In the matter of language and script, article 7 (2) provides that in communities where the majority of the inhabitants belong to another nationality, the language and script of that other nationality must be used for official purposes, alongside the Macedonian language and the Cyrillic alphabet. Article 7 (3) makes the same provision for communities where a substantial number of inhabitants belong to a given nationality. In both these cases, however, the rights in question have still to be determined in precise terms by legislation.

(g) Article 9 (1) of the Constitution prohibits any discrimination on grounds of race, colour, national or social origin, or political or religious convictions.

4. On 6 January 1992 the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia amended the Constitution of 17 November 1991 by adopting the following Constitutional Act:

"These Amendments are an integral part of the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia and shall be implemented on the day of their adoption.

Amendment I

1. The Republic of Macedonia has no territorial claims against neighbouring States.
2. The borders of the Republic of Macedonia could be changed only in accordance with the Constitution, and based on the principle of voluntariness and generally accepted international norms.
3. Item 1 of this Amendment is added to article 3; and item 2 replaces paragraph 3 of article 3 of the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia.

Amendment II

1. The Republic shall not interfere in the sovereign rights of other States and their internal affairs.
2. This Amendment is added to paragraph 1 of article 49 of the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia."

5. The Arbitration Commission consequently takes the view:

- that the Republic of Macedonia satisfies the tests in the Guidelines on the Recognition of New States in Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union and the Declaration on Yugoslavia adopted by the Council of the European Communities on 16 December 1991;

- that the Republic of Macedonia has, moreover, renounced all territorial claims of any kind in unambiguous statements binding in territorial law; that the use of the name "Macedonia" cannot therefore imply any territorial claim against another State; and

- that the Republic of Macedonia has given a formal undertaking in accordance with international law to refrain, both in general and pursuant to article 49 of its Constitution in particular, from any hostile propaganda against any other State: this follows from a statement which the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic made to the Arbitration Commission on 11 January 1992 in response to the Commission's request for clarification of Constitutional Amendment II of 6 January 1992.

Paris
11 January 1992

R. Badinter

Annex IV

TREATY FOR THE CONFIRMATION OF THE EXISTING FRONTIER

THE STATES PARTIES TO THIS TREATY,

- Recalling the principles of the inviolability of frontiers and the territorial integrity of States which are incorporated in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe signed in Helsinki,
- Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the United Nations Charter and, in particular, those referring to the obligation of States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State,
- Inspired by a spirit of good-neighbourliness and a desire to avoid conflicts between them,
- Desiring to develop their mutual relations and to lay firm foundations for a climate of friendship and lasting understanding,
- Considering their mutual interest for the maintenance of international peace and security,
- Desiring to confirm the existing frontier between them as an enduring international frontier,
- Desiring to ensure that the frontier is a bond of friendship between them, have agreed as follows:

Article 1

- The two States Parties to this treaty hereby confirm their common existing frontier as an enduring and inviolable international frontier.

Article 2

- The two States Parties undertake to respect the sovereignty, the territorial integrity and the political independence of each other.

Article 3

- The two States Parties shall refrain from threats or the use of force aimed at the violation of the common existing frontier, in accordance with the purpose and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and agree that neither of them will assert or support claims to any part of the territory of the other State or claims for a change of the present frontier.

Article 4

- The two States Parties will work together and cooperate to maintain and ensure the lawful and free movement of goods and persons through the frontier, in conformity with the obligations which the Parties have assumed under the relevant International Conventions.

Annex V

Draft Proposed by Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, 14 May 1993

Treaty Confirming the Existing Frontier and Establishing Measures
for Confidence Building, Friendship and Neighbourly Cooperation

The Republic of Greece and the Republic of Nova Makedonija,

Recalling the principles of the inviolability of frontiers and the territorial integrity of States incorporated in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, signed in Helsinki,

Bearing in mind the provisions of the United Nations Charter and, in particular, those referring to the obligation of States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State,

Guided by the spirit and the principles of democracy and fundamental freedoms and respect for human rights and dignity, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a new Europe and other pertinent acts of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe,

Inspired by a spirit of good-neighbourliness and the desire to avoid conflicts between them,

Considering their mutual interest in the maintenance of international peace and security, especially in their region,

Desiring to confirm the existing frontier between them as an enduring international border and to ensure that that frontier constitutes a bond of friendship between them,

Recalling their obligation not to intervene, on any pretext or in any form, in the internal affairs of the other,

Desiring to develop their mutual relations and to lay firm foundations for a climate of friendship and lasting understanding,

Realizing that economic cooperation is an important element for the development of mutual relations on a stable and firm basis, as well as desiring to develop and promote future cooperation,

Have agreed as follows:

A. FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

Article 1

1. Upon ratification of this Agreement, the Republic of Greece shall formally recognize the Republic of Nova Makedonija and the Parties shall promptly establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level.

2. The Parties shall consult regularly on the development and promotion of their bilateral relations. For this purpose they hereby establish an Inter-ministerial Joint Commission, which shall meet at least once a year, alternately in their respective capitals.

3. Each Party shall designate a senior official who shall at all times be immediately available to the other, for the purpose of promptly considering and bringing to the attention of the competent authorities any matter or incident involving the security, tranquillity or general order of their mutual frontier. These officials shall meet from time to time and shall develop any agreed procedures necessary to carry out their responsibilities.

Article 2

The Parties hereby confirm their common existing frontier as an enduring and inviolable international border.

Article 3

Each Party undertakes to respect the sovereignty, the territorial integrity and the political independence of the other Party.

Article 4

The Parties shall refrain, in accordance with the purpose and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, from the threat or use of force designed to violate their existing frontier, and they agree that neither of them will assert or support claims to any part of the territory of the other Party or claims for a change of their existing frontier.

Article 5

The Republic of Nova Makedonija hereby agrees to use that name for all official purposes.

Article 6

1. The Republic of Nova Makedonija hereby solemnly declares that nothing in its Constitution, and in particular in the preamble thereto or in article 3, can be interpreted as constituting or will ever constitute the basis of any claim by the Republic of Nova Makedonija to any territory not within its existing frontiers.

2. The Republic of Nova Makedonija hereby solemnly declares that nothing in its Constitution, and in particular in article 49, can be interpreted as constituting or will ever constitute the basis of any claim by the Republic of Nova Makedonija specifically to protect the status and rights of any persons in other States who are not its citizens.

3. The Republic of Nova Makedonija furthermore solemnly declares that article 5, regarding the use of that name, and the interpretations given in paragraphs 1 and 2 of article 6 of this international Agreement will not be superseded by any other interpretation of its Constitution.

Article 7

1. Each Party shall promptly take effective measures to prohibit hostile activities or propaganda by State-controlled agencies and to discourage acts by private entities that are likely to incite violence, hatred or hostility against each other, and especially activities of an irredentist nature against the other Party.

2. Each Party undertakes not to use symbols, names, flags, monuments or emblems constituting part of the historic or cultural patrimony of the other Party; in this regard the Republic of Nova Makedonija agrees, as a confidence-building measure, not to use the Vergina Sun in any way. Furthermore, each Party shall respect the official geographic names and toponyms in the other country, as recommended by the United Nations Conference for the Standardization of Geographic Names, and shall endeavour to use only these designations in their official documents, publications and maps.

3. If either Party brings to the attention of the other any alleged violation of paragraph 1 or 2, the latter shall promptly take the necessary corrective action or indicate why it does not consider that it need do so.

B. HUMAN AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Article 8

1. In the conduct of their affairs the Parties shall be guided by the spirit and principles of democracy and fundamental freedoms and respect for human rights and dignity and the rule of law, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Helsinki Final

Act, the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe.

2. No provision of the instruments listed in paragraph 1 shall be interpreted so as to give any right to perform an action contrary to the aims and principles of the United Nations Charter, or of the Helsinki Final Act, including the principle of the territorial integrity of States.

Article 9

The Parties shall cooperate in maintaining and cherishing the European cultural heritage.

Article 10

Convinced that the development of human relations is necessary for improving understanding and good-neighbourliness of their two peoples, the Parties shall encourage contacts at all appropriate levels and shall not discourage meetings between their citizens.

C. EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

Article 11

1. The Republic of Greece shall endeavour to support, wherever possible, the admission of the Republic of Nova Makedonija to those European institutions of which Greece is a member.

2. The Parties agree that the ongoing economic transformation of the Republic of Nova Makedonija should be supported through international cooperation, as far as possible by a closer relationship of the Republic of Nova Makedonija with the European Economic Area and the European Community.

D. TREATY RELATIONS

Article 12

1. The Parties shall apply in their relations the provisions of the following bilateral agreements that had been concluded between the Republic of Greece and the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on 18 June 1959:

- (a) Convention concerning mutual legal relations,
- (b) Agreement concerning the reciprocal recognition and the enforcement of judicial decisions, and
- (c) Agreement concerning hydro-economic questions.

At the request of either Party they shall consult concerning the renegotiation of any of these agreements, with a view to replacing them by ones concluded directly between the Parties.

2. The Parties shall consult with each other in order to examine the status and applicability of the other bilateral agreements that had formerly been in force between the Republic of Greece and the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, with a view either to renewing or renegotiating those agreements within six months of the entry into force of this Agreement.

3. The Parties may conclude additional bilateral agreements in areas of mutual interest.

Article 13

Having regard to the fact that the Republic of Nova Makedonija is a land-locked State, the Parties shall, when concluding the agreements provided for in article 14, take into account, as far as practicable, the provisions of the 1965 Convention on Transit Trade of Land-locked States.

Article 14

1. The two Parties shall encourage the development of friendly and good-neighbourly relations between them and shall reinforce their economic cooperation in all sectors, including that of water resources management. In particular they shall promote, on a reciprocal basis, road, rail, maritime and air transport and communication links, using the best available technologies, and facilitate the transit of their goods between them and through their territories and ports.

2. To this end they shall initiate within one month from the entry into force of this Agreement, negotiations aimed at signing, within six months or as soon as possible thereafter, of agreements of cooperation in the aforementioned areas, taking into account the obligations of the Republic of Greece deriving from its membership in the European Community and from other international instruments. Such agreements shall relate to visas, work permits, economic cooperation both on the bilateral and multilateral level, including cooperation between the Republic of Nova Makedonija and the European Community and other international institutions.

E. ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND LEGAL RELATIONS

Article 15

1. The Parties shall strengthen their economic relations in all fields.

2. The Parties shall in particular support development and cooperation in the field of capital investments, as well as industrial cooperation between enterprises. Special attention shall be paid to cooperation between small and medium-size companies and enterprises.

Article 16

1. The Parties shall develop and improve scientific and technical cooperation, as well as cooperation in the field of education.
2. The Parties shall intensify their exchanges of information and of scientific and technical documentation, and shall strive to improve mutual access to scientific and research institutions, archives, libraries and similar institutions.
3. The Parties shall support initiatives by scientific institutions and by individuals aimed at improving cooperation.

Article 17

The Parties shall emphasize their mutual cooperation in the agro-industrial field, with particular reference to health-food production.

Article 18

The Parties are aware that it is desirable to improve the utilization of land, especially between neighbouring States, and shall cooperate to this end.

Article 19

1. The Parties shall take great care to avoid dangers to the environment and to preserve natural living conditions, especially in the lakes and rivers shared by the two States.
2. The Parties shall cooperate to eliminate all forms of pollution in border areas.
3. The Parties shall strive to develop and harmonize strategies and programmes for regional and international cooperation for protecting the environment.

Article 20

The Parties shall cooperate to alleviate the consequences of disasters.

Article 21

1. The Parties shall improve and promote business and tourist travel.
2. The Parties shall make joint efforts to improve and accelerate customs and border formalities, including simplification in the issue of visas to each other's citizens, consistent with the obligations of the Republic of Greece

arising from its membership of the European Community and from relevant instruments of the Community.

3. The Parties shall endeavour to improve and modernize existing border crossings as required by the flow of traffic, and construct new ones as necessary.

Article 22

1. The Parties shall develop, intensify and improve their consular relations and legal cooperation, and within this framework provide legal assistance to each other in criminal, civil, social and administrative affairs, respecting their respective legal orders as well as bilateral and multilateral treaties and conventions.

2. The Parties shall cooperate in their fight against organized crime, terrorism, economic crimes, narcotics crimes, illegal trade in cultural property, offenses against civil air transport and counterfeiting.

F. FINAL CLAUSES

Article 23

1. The Parties shall settle any disputes exclusively by peaceful means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

2. Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, any difference or dispute that arises between them concerning the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement may be submitted by either of them to the International Court of Justice.

Article 24

This Agreement is not directed against any other State or entity. It does not infringe on the rights and duties resulting from bilateral and multilateral agreements already in force that the Parties have concluded with other States or international organizations.

Article 25

1. This Agreement is subject to ratification. The instruments of ratification shall be exchanged as soon as possible. The Agreement shall come into force on the day of such exchange.

2. This Agreement shall remain in force indefinitely, provided that after twenty years either Party may terminate it by a written notice, which shall take effect twelve months after its delivery to the other Party.

In Witness Whereof the Parties have, through their authorized representatives, signed four copies of this Agreement in the English language; within two months the United Nations is to prepare, in consultation with the Parties, translations into their languages, which shall constitute part of the registration of this Agreement with the Secretariat of the United Nations.

Constantine Mitsotakis

Kiro Gligorov

WITNESSED, in accordance with resolution 817 (1993) of the Security Council, by:

Cyrus Vance

Lord Owen
